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THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF THE USSR

1. The formal basis of the Government structure of the USSR is the "Constitution of the USSR", approved by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 5 Dec 36. This day was declared a national holiday by the Government and is known as the "Day of the Stalin Constitution."

THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET

2. The highest governing body in the USSR is the USSR Supreme Soviet, elected for four year terms from among citizens with a minimum age of 23 and a right to vote. The USSR Supreme Soviet consists of two Chambers:

(a) Soviet of the Union which is elected by all the voters in election okrugs, with one delegate chosen for every 300,000 population.

(b) Soviet of Nationalities which is elected in the following manner:

(1) 25 delegates from each Union Republic

(2) 11 delegates from each Autonomous Republic

(3) Five delegates from each Autonomous Oblast

(4) One delegate from each National Okrug

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3. The number of delegates in the Soviet of the Union usually fluctuates within the limits of about 680 persons, while the number of delegates in the Soviet of Nationalities usually varies within the limits of about 660 persons.

4. Formally, all decisions of the Supreme Soviet must have the approval of both Chambers. In the event of a disagreement between the Chambers, the question is referred for settlement to a Conciliation Commission composed of members of both Chambers in equal numbers. In the event that the Conciliation Commission fails to arrive at an agreement, or if its decision fails to satisfy one of the Chambers, the question is again examined by both Chambers. In the event the two Chambers again cannot agree on a decision, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet dissolves the USSR Supreme Soviet and orders new elections.

5. The USSR Supreme Soviet is a legislative organ which forms and controls all higher organs of administration and justice, and carries out supervision over adherence to the law.

6. The powers of the USSR Supreme Soviet are as follows:

   (a) Proclaims the laws of the USSR;

   (b) Elects the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which is the collegiate (collective) president of the country;

   (c) Forms the USSR Government, the USSR Council of Ministers;

   (d) Elects the USSR Supreme Court;

   (e) Appoints the USSR Prosecutor-General;

   (f) Exercises control over the organs of power, which consist of the right of the deputies to address questions to the Government, to appoint committees of investigation and audit, and to remove all officials of the Government;

   (g) Exercises all other functions of the highest State power, ie, ratifies the most important treaties with foreign powers, declares a state of war, etc;

   (h) Introduces amendments to the Constitution of the USSR by a two-thirds majority vote in each Chamber.

   (i) Each Chamber establishes the conduct of its business, elects its organs, etc.

7. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR convenes for sessions twice a year at the summons of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Extraordinary sessions may be convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR at its discretion or on the demand of one of the Union Republics. The sessions of both Chambers begin and terminate simultaneously.

8. Each Chamber establishes the conduct of its business. Upon decision of both Chambers, they may hold joint sessions which are presided over alternately by the Presiding Officers of the Chambers elected by the members of each Chamber.

9. Elections of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and the appointment of the Prosecutor-General of the USSR take place at a joint session of both Chambers.

10. Each Chamber elects its Chairman and two Deputy Chairmen; a Credentials Commission, which verifies the validity of the credentials of deputies; a Committee for drafting bills, the duty of which consists in a preliminary study and preparation of bills; a Budget Committee, and a Foreign Affairs Committee. In addition, each Chamber may also elect temporary editorial commissions for individual bills. The right to initiate legislation belongs to both Chambers in the persons of deputies, to the Committees of both Chambers, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and to the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

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THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR

11. At its first session after elections, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR elects a Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, which remains in power until a newly elected Supreme Soviet of the USSR elects a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR consists of:

(a) Chairman;

(b) Deputy Chairmen, whose number equals the number of Union Republics;

(c) Secretary;

(d) Fifteen members of the Presidium.

12. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR:

(a) Is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and carries full responsibility for the legality and expediency of its activities. Every member of the Presidium is at all times subject to dismissal by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

(b) Is the collegiate /collective/ President of the country.

(c) Consists of people's representatives, members of both Chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, with a provision ensuring the representation of all Union Republics, large Autonomous Republics, krais, and oblasts.

(d) Has no veto power over decisions of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and has no authority to dissolve the Supreme Soviet of the USSR except in the single instance described in the foregoing section on the functions of the Conciliation Commission.

13. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR is an organ of government within the system of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR which functions permanently and exercises the highest power under the control of the Supreme Soviet. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR is endowed with the following powers:

(a) In the field of foreign relations, it appoints and recalls political representatives of the USSR, receives letters of accreditation and recall of foreign diplomatic representatives, ratifies and denounces treaties. In the intervals between the sessions of the Supreme Court of the USSR, it proclaims a state of war, orders partial or general mobilization, proclaims martial law, appoints and removes the high command of the Armed Forces of the country.

(b) In the conduct of business of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, it orders elections, convenes regular and extraordinary sessions of the Supreme Council, signs laws in the persons of the Chairman and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR, dissolves the Supreme Soviet in the case specified above. In the intervals between the sessions of the Supreme Soviet, it grants its consent to the prosecution or arrest of a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and, likewise, to the conduct of a referendum.

(c) In the control over executive and administrative bodies, it exercises control over the actions of the Government, annuls orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and of the Councils of Ministers of the Union Republics if they do not conform to the law, hears the reports of the Government and the individual departments, releases and appoints officials of the Government in the interval between sessions of the Supreme Council of the USSR in accordance with recommendations of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

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(d) Issues ukases to establish general standards, regulate urgent problems in the life of the State, create new Ministries, new krais, oblasts, etc. Ukases specified in paragraph "d", as well as ukases dealing with the dismissals and appointments of government officials are submitted by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for discussion and ratification.

(e) In its capacity as an organ of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR interprets the laws of the USSR in operation; this interpretation is binding on all Soviet organs and on the citizens of the USSR.

(f) The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR institutes medals of the USSR, honorary titles of the USSR, military titles, diplomatic ranks, and other special titles.

(g) The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR is also endowed with the following rights; to grant citizenship, to grant permission to renounce citizenship, to award decorations, to grant pardons, etc.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR - THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR

14. The highest executive and administrative organ of State power in the USSR is the Government of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the USSR. The Council of Ministers of the USSR is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR at its first session after elections. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR assigns to one of its members who is being considered for the post of Chairman of the Council of Ministers, the task of submitting to the Supreme Soviet his suggestions on the composition of the Government. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR must confirm the appointment of each member of the Government individually, beginning with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Members of the Government do not necessarily have to be deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; they may also be non-deputies.

15. The Council of Ministers of the USSR consists of:

(a) The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR

(b) The First Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the USSR

(c) The Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the USSR

(d) The Ministers of the USSR

(e) The Chairman of the State /Planning/ Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR

(f) The Chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR for Construction Affairs.

16. Attached to the Council of Ministers of the USSR are main administrations, committees, councils, and other central departments.

17. The Ministries of the USSR are divided into all-Union Ministries, which are entirely within the jurisdiction of the Union, and Union Republic Ministries, which are within the joint jurisdiction of the Union and of the Union Republics. The first group consists chiefly of the Ministries controlling various branches of industry having a decisive influence on the national economy, while the second group consists of Ministries dealing with problems of general policies and administration.

18. The Government of the USSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and reports to them. Specifically, the Government as a whole or a separate member of the Government is obligated to give an answer within three days to the question of a deputy.

19. Decrees and regulations of the Government of the USSR are issued in accordance with and in execution of the laws, and can be revoked by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR or by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

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SUPREME ORGANS OF POWER AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION AND AUTONOMOUS REPUBLICS

20. The organs of power and administration of the Union and Autonomous Republics are established in absolute conformity with the principles of the establishment of the organs of power in the USSR.

21. A unicameral Supreme Soviet, elected by the entire population of a Republic, is the highest organ of the State power in each Republic. All the citizens of the USSR, 21 years of age or over, having a right to vote, may be deputies to the Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic or an Autonomous Republic.

22. The Supreme Soviet of a Republic elects a Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic. In those Union Republics which contain Autonomous Republics, the latter have representation in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republics in the capacity of Deputy Chairmen of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republic.

23. The Supreme Soviet of a Republic appoints the Government of the Republic, the Council of Ministers of the Republic, consisting of:

(a) The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic,

(b) the First Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Republic,

(c) the Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Republic,

(d) the Ministers of the Union Republic,

(e) the Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the Union Republic,

(f) the Chairman of the Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Union Republic for Construction Affairs [redacted] note: It is not believed that this Committee is part of the Council of Ministers on the republic level.

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24. The Ministries of the Union Republics fall into two groups:

(a) Union-Republic, and

(b) Republic.

The Union-Republic Ministries of Union Republics have jurisdiction over the fields entrusted to them, and are subordinate both to the Government of the Republic and to the corresponding Ministry of the Union.

The republic Ministries of Union Republics are subordinate only to the Governments of the Union Republics.

25. The republic Ministries of Autonomous Republics are subordinate to the Government of the Autonomous Republic and also to the corresponding Ministry of the Union Republic.

All these organs function within the jurisdiction of the Union or Autonomous Republic, respectively.

THE LOCAL ORGANS OF STATE POWER

26. The organs of state power in krais, oblasts, okrugs, raions, cities and villages are the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

27. The oblast and krai Soviets hold four sessions a year; the city, raion and village Soviets hold twelve sessions a year. A Chairman and a Secretary are elected at each session.

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28. The executive and administrative organ of each Soviet is the Executive Committee elected by it, consisting of:

(a) The Chairman of the Executive Committee,

(b) the Deputy Chairmen of the Executive Committee,

(c) the Secretary of the Executive Committee,

(d) the members of the Executive Committee.

29. In small villages the executive and administrative organs of the Soviets are the following officials elected by each Soviet:

(a) The Chairman of the Soviet,

(b) the Deputy Chairman of the Soviet,

(c) the Secretary.

30. The executive organs of the Soviets are subordinate to the Soviets and accountable to them. Various branches of the administration are set up as sections which are subordinate to the Executive Committees of the Soviets and to the Soviets themselves on one hand, and to the sections of the higher Soviets, including the respective Ministries, on the other.

31. Correspondingly, the Executive Committees of the Soviets are subordinate to the respective Soviets on one hand and, on the other hand, to the Executive Committees of the higher Soviet, including the Council of Ministers which is the highest executive and administrative organ.

THE JUDICIAL ORGANS AND THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE IN THE USSR

32. Formally, all judicial organs of the USSR are elective; they are elected either directly by the citizens or by the Supreme Soviets of the Union, the Union Republics, or the Autonomous Republics.

33. The Supreme Court of the USSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for a term of five years.

34. The Supreme Courts of the Union and Autonomous Republics are elected by the respective Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics for a term of five years.

35. The Courts of krais, oblasts and okrugs are elected by the respective Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the krais, oblasts, and okrugs for a term of five years.

36. The People's Courts are elected directly by the citizens of the district for a term of three years.

37. Formally, all the Courts of the USSR are independent of any organ of Government and are subordinate only to the law and to higher courts. The People's Court is subordinate to the Oblast Court, the Oblast Court to the Republic's Court, and the Republic's Court to the Supreme Court of the USSR.

38. Supervision to ensure the strict observance of the law in the USSR is carried out by the Prosecutors' Offices.

39. The Prosecutor General of the USSR is vested with the supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of the law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by individual officials. It is to be noted that the supervision over the observance of law by the Council of Ministers of the USSR is carried out by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The Prosecutor General of the USSR is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for a term of seven years.

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40. The Prosecutors of Union Republics, Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Oblasts, Krais and Oblasts are appointed by the Prosecutor General of the USSR for a term of five years.

41. The Prosecutors of Okrugs, Cities and Raions are appointed by the Prosecutors of Union Republics for a term of five years, but such appointments are subject to confirmation by the Prosecutor General of the USSR.

42. Formally, the Prosecutors' Offices of the USSR are independent of any organ of Government and are subordinate only to the law and to their higher Offices.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS OF THE USSR

1.	RSFSR	Capital -	Moscow
	(a) Bashkirskaya ASSR	"	Ufa
	(b) Buryat-Mongol'skaya ASSR	"	Ulan-Ude
	(c) Dagestanskaya ASSR	"	Makhach Kala
	(d) Kabardinskaya ASSR	"	Nal'chik
	(e) Komi ASSR	"	Syktyvkar
	(f) Severo-Osetinskaya ASSR	"	Dzaudzhikau
	(g) Mariyskaya ASSR	"	Yushkar-ola
	(h) Mordovskaya ASSR	"	Saransk
	(i) Tatarskaya ASSR	"	Kazan'
	(j) Udmurtskaya ASSR	"	Izhevsk
	(k) Chuvashskaya ASSR	"	Cheboksary
	(l) Yakutskaya ASSR		Yakutsk
2.	Ukrainian SSR	"	Kiev
3.	Belorussian SSR	"	Minsk
4.	Uzbek SSR	"	Tashkent
	(a) Kara-Kalpakskaya ASSR	"	Nukus
5.	Kazakh SSR	"	Alma-Ata
6.	Georgian SSR	"	Tbilisi
	(a) Abkhazskaya ASSR	"	Sukhumi
	(b) Adsharskaya ASSR	"	Batumi
7.	Azerbaijan SSR	"	Baku
8.	Lithuanian SSR	"	Vil'nyus
9.	Moldavian SSR	"	Kishinev
10.	Latvian SSR	"	Riga
11.	Kirgiz SSR	"	Frunze
12.	Tadzhik SSR	"	Stalinabad
13.	Armenian SSR	"	Yerevan
14.	Turkmen SSR	"	Ashkhabad
15.	Estonian SSR	"	Tallin
16.	Karelo-Finnish SSR	"	Petrozavodsk

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